



Motto : **I believe in the Sacrament of Priesthood**

*Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19-20)*

"If A were to meet a priest and an angel, I should salute the priest before the Angel. The latter is the friend of God, but the priest stands in His place"

~John Maria Vianney



Jeevan Darshan 2018

Hi I am .....

I Belong to.....

My Group.....



Jeevan Darshan

2018

# Theme Song

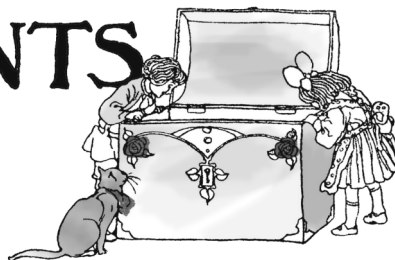
Let us seek our God  
Let us find the Lord  
We the children of  
Jeevan Darshan Camp (2)

JDC, Jeevan Darshan  
We proclaim that  
Jesus is our God (2)

Marching like angels of the Lord  
Fighting like army of the Lord  
Defeating the snares of evil  
Rooted in the living word of God (2)

Being the beacon of the light  
Brought up in vision of Christ  
Leading the kingdom of God  
Guided by the Spirit of the Lord (2)

# CONTENTS



Jeevan Darshan

2018

Introduction.....	Page No. 06-08
Chapter One.....	Page No. 09-14
Chapter Two.....	Page No. 15-20
Chapter Three.....	Page No. 21-28



Jeevan Darshan

2018

## Priesthood – An Introduction



Sacraments are the best ways to obtain God's grace. The Church's salvific mission of sanctifying the entire world is today continued through the Holy Sacraments. The meaning of the Syriac word 'Kadesh' is 'to make holy' or 'to sanctify'. We partake in the salvific mission of Jesus through sacraments. Jesus Christ involves in the human lives and showers the blessing of grace through the Sacraments. Likewise, Sacraments are the holy celebrations of God dispensing divine life by sanctifying the humankind.



### Church and Sacraments

There are seven Sacraments celebrated in the Church. These seven Sacraments touches and sanctify the most important phases of the human life. From the birth to the death of a person, the entire life situations are hallowed by the sacraments.

According to the Sacred Scripture, the Apostolic tradition, the theological vision and teachings of the Church Fathers, Christ is the founder of all the Sacraments. It means that all the Sacraments come from Christ. It is clearly illustrated in the Sacred Scripture.



Jeevan Darshan

2018

Sacraments	Scriptural Verses
Baptism	Mt 28:19, 20
Anointing with Holy Myron	Jn 14:16, 16:13, I Jn 2:27
Holy Qurbano	Mt 26:29 ; Mk 14:22-25 ; Lk 22:19, 20 ; I Cor 11:23-25
Confession	Jn 20:22, 23
Marriage	Mt 19:4-6
Anointing of the Sick	Mt 10:5-8, Jas 5:14, 15
Priesthood	Mt 16:19, 20 ; Lk 22:19, 20

Sacraments are celebrated and sustained in the Church. These Sacraments are not human created. Sacraments are the symbols of the divine grace entrusted to the Church by Jesus Christ.



The service of Priesthood was prevailed among the people from the beginning of the world. We can see a group of servers who offer sacrifice and submit prayers in all religions. They are appointed for the people. This is an authoritative service of interceding for the faithful people. Priest is the mediator. he is appointed to act in the name of the people. According to the Christian faith, Priesthood is established by God. A Priest is appointed in the name of the Church. A Priest is a god man appointed to intercede before God for the people.

**ARE YOU  
SURE?**



## **Lesson One**

### **Sacrament of Priesthood**



Jeevan Darshan

2018

Every Christian faithful participates in the common priesthood of Jesus Christ through the reception of the Sacrament of Baptism. St. Peter speaks about the common priesthood of Christians: “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people” (1 Peter 2:9). But a few have received the special grace to participate in his salvific service also.

In the Upper Room, during the last supper, when Christ appointed the disciples, he gave certain special authorities to a few for serving the faithful (YOUCAT 259). This is what is called as Ministerial Priesthood. This grace is given to the Apostles, to Bishops as successors of the Apostles and to priests by the laying on of hands by the Bishops. They are called as those who have received ‘ministerial priesthood’. Since a particular and a special authority is given through this, ministerial priesthood is different from the common priesthood. The Church teaches that this priesthood is different from the common priesthood in its essence (CCC 1592). The priests are set apart from the other believers through the Holy Order by the will of God (CCEO 323/2). They are selected by the authorities of the Church, anointed by the grace of the Holy Spirit and appointed as the ministers in the Church.

#### **Sacramental Priesthood**

There were two services in the early Church: charismatic services and official services (1 Cor 12:12–31, Acts 11:30, 4:15-16). The mission of the Apostles stands first among the other various services of the early Church. They were directly appointed by the risen Christ. He gave them the authority to establish church communities and preach the good news. They were the witnesses of the Christ events and the official representatives of the risen Christ.



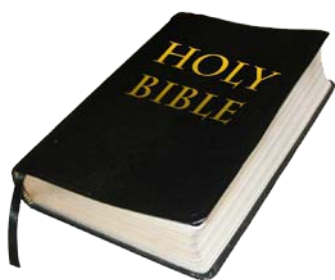
Jeevan Darshan

2018

Jesus made his people participate in his priesthood. In order to continue this priestly function in the New Testament, just like how as it was in the Old Testament, various ministries are needed. It is beyond any debate that Jesus chose the 12 disciples in order to entrust them the responsibilities of the Church (Mk 3:13). He prepared them to be the ministers of the Word of God. He gave them the authority to handle it (Mt 10: 8). He entrusted them the Holy Qurbono during the Last Supper. All these are the sharing in his priesthood.

The Apostles understood this and appointed the responsible ones to participate in this mission (Acts 14:23, 20:17, Tit 1:5). The references of St. Paul regarding the apostolic missions and gifts are an explicit indication towards the priesthood in the ministry of the Church. Paul gives the priestly titles viz. the stewards of the Divine Mysteries (1 Cor 4:1), the servants of the New Covenant (2Cor 3:6).

Christ chose the Apostles to continue his salvific mission (Mt 10:40, Lk 10:16, Jn 13:20). He commanded them to continue the service of the Holy Qurbono. They are called not only to celebrate the Holy Eucharist, but also to proclaim the Good News (Mk 3:12-15). Though all participate in the common priesthood, a few are chosen from the people of God to administer the sacraments and to sanctify, to teach and to lead the people of God. They receive the priesthood by the laying on of hands by the Bishops and participate in the sacramental or ministerial priesthood. They specially participate in the priesthood of Jesus and administer his priesthood in this world. It becomes very clear from this selection that the ministerial priesthood is different from the common priesthood which is given to everybody.



## Priesthood in the Holy Scripture

### Old Testament

In the first phase of Jewish history, there was no special group called Priests. The great Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob built altars by themselves and offered sacrifices. They offered sacrifices as the head of the family.





Jeevan Darshan

2018

According to the will of God, priesthood was officially established among the Israelites during the time of Moses. *Kohan*, the Hebrew word was used to denote priest in the Old Testament. This word is used around 740 times in the Old Testament. Another word *komer* was used to indicate the priests of Yahweh (2 Kings 23:5). There was a different meaning for the word *kohen*; to serve, to bow down, to stand before God etc. There were two types of priesthood in the Old Testament; official priesthood and unofficial priesthood. In the unofficial priesthood, head of the family, leader of the tribes and kings were considered as priests. But only Priests like Levites belonged to the official priesthood. 'They were called the priests of the Lord' (Ex 19:6, Is 61:6).

### **Duties of the Priests in the Old Testament**

In the background of the Old Testament, the priests had many responsibilities to fulfill. Some of the important responsibilities are given below:

1. Stewards of the Holy Scripture and the Ark of the Covenant - Priests were the stewards of the Holy Scripture. They were also the stewards of the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark of the Covenant was entrusted to the priests when it was first placed first in the tent of the meeting.
2. Convey the Will of God - People had been approaching the priests to know the will of God about them (Jud 18:5). Priests used to interpret the will of God.
3. Teaching - We read in the book of Prophet Malachi; "For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts"(Mal 2:7). Priests were the teachers of the law. Jeremiah was criticizing the priests who forgot to understand the will of God (Jer 2:8). Teaching the people was the obligation of the priests.
4. Offering of Sacrifices - To offer the sacrifices of atonement and reconciliation for the people was the duty of priests.

Offer sacrifices (Lev 1-3), offer incense (Lev 16:12), light the candles in the Holy Place (Ex 30:7), blow the horns were the duties of priests.

The Old Testament priesthood was limited to ritual observances. The priest and the offering were different. His offering never affected his personal life.



Jeevan Darshan

2018

In the same way, priesthood was related to only certain families and tribes; especially the tribe of Levi. At the same time, there were some indications about the eternal priesthood. For e.g. Melchizedek. The indication regarding the eternal priesthood of Jesus Christ was very evident.

### **Priesthood in the New Testament**

*Hiereus* is the term used for priesthood in the New Testament (Mt 8:4). But the Acts of the Apostles and the epistles use the word *presbyter* for priests. It means elder.

Jesus had recognized the authority of priesthood which prevailed during his time. After healing the leper, He told him to show himself to the priest (Mt 8:4). But Jesus gave new meaning and vision to the concept of priesthood. The priesthood of Jesus Christ was not the continuation of the priesthood of Jews; it was a new beginning. If the dwelling place of God is temple and the priests were the stewards of that in the Old Testament, Jesus taught that the heart of every human being is the temple of God. The priests in the Old Testament was offering other animals and things as sacrifice; Jesus as a victim offered himself as the atoning sacrifice. Here Jesus himself became the priest and sacrificial victim.

### **Institution of Priesthood**

1. Christ specially chose the twelve disciples and prepared them to entrust the responsibilities of the Church. He prepared them to preach the Word of God, to cast out demons and to heal the sick. He gave them His authority (Mt 10:4-40).
2. He gave them the authority to forgive and bind sins by saying; “whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven” (Mt 18:18).
3. “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them, if you retain the sins of any, they are retained” (Jn 20:22-23). Here he gives them the priestly authority by the anointing of the Holy Spirit.
4. At the time of last supper, when Jesus instituted the Eucharist, he instituted Priesthood too. He entrusted his disciples the mission and authority of “Do this in memory of me” and instituted priesthood.

5. “I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours”(Jn 17: 9). This is the prayer of Jesus for the priests.



Jeevan Darshan

2018

### **Priesthood in the Epistles of St. Paul**

1. We have the reference in the epistle written to the Church in Corinth: “For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed”(1 Cor 5:7). Here Jesus is portrayed as the offeror and the offering at the same time. In the letter to the Ephesians, we read:“Live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God” (Eph 5:2).Here again Jesus is pictured as the priest and the offeror of sacrifice. But here the basis of sacrifice is love. This is the uniqueness of the priesthood of the New Testament.
2. St. Paul says; “Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God’s mysteries” (1Cor 4:1). This is another indication about the priesthood of the New Testament.
3. A priest is the one who builds up the Church. “According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation and someone else is building on it”(1 Cor 3:10). Building up the Church of Christ is the mission of the New Testament Priest.

### **Priesthood of Jesus Christ**

By the coming of Jesus Christ, the sacrifice of the Jews and the Jewish priesthood which was a foretaste and an indication ended. Jesus Christ instituted the Eucharist and priesthood according to the New Covenant. Jesus Christ, the perfect God became a complete man through his incarnation and became the only mediator between God, the Father and humanity. As the one and only mediator, Jesus offered himself as a sacrifice on Calvary for the remission of sins of humanity forever. Thus Jesus became the priest to offer the sacrifice and the sacrifice itself. He proved himself as the priest by offering the sacrifice by him and laid foundation for the priesthood of the New Testament.



Jeevan Darshan

2018

He willed to continue his sacrifice for the salvation of humankind till the end of the world. For that, he chose the twelve apostles in advance and gave them his privilege of priesthood and thus instituted the sacrament of priesthood (Jn 20: 21-23, Mk 16:15-16, Lk 22:19, Mt 28:19-20). Thus these twelve apostles became the priests in the church. They anointed bishops (episcopas) and presbyters (elders) as their successors (I Pet 5:1, I Tim 4:14). These anointed priests are continuing the sacrifice of Jesus that he offered on Calvary.



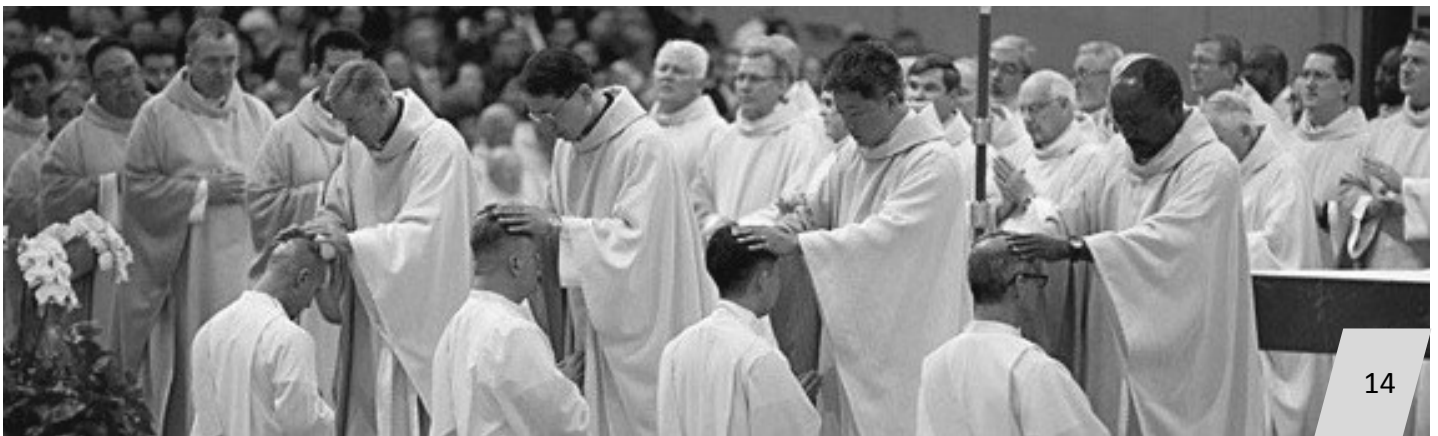
*Note down the name of the priest who baptized you and pray for him.*

### **Let us Memorize**

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep” (Jn 10:11)

“He went up the mountain and called to him those whom he wanted, and they came to him. And he appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him and to be sent out to proclaim the message and to have authority to cast out demons” (Mk 3:13- 15).

*A priest brings forth Jesus into this world...thorough the sacraments...through his life*



## Lesson 2

# Priesthood: A Divine Gift



Jeevan Darshan

2018

After the institution of the Holy Qurbano during the Last Supper saying, “Do this in memory of me”, Jesus commanded his apostles to continue the same. The Church understands this incident as the event of institution of the Priesthood. The institution of the Eucharist cannot be separated from priesthood. Laying on of hands is the external symbol of the sacrament of Holy Priesthood. (Acts 14:23, 1 Tim 4:14, 5:22, 2 Tim 1:6). It is the apostolic tradition of appointing elders in every church. The invisible grace is transmitted through the laying on of hands. It is worth to note the exhortation of St. Paul to Timothy not to ignore the grace given by the laying on of hands by the elders of the Church. This sacrament is a divine institution (Acts 20:28, Eph 4: 11). Since the anointed priest is set apart forever, the seal of anointing is indelible.

### The Fruits of the Sacrament of Priesthood

#### 1. Indelible Mark

Sacrament of Holy Priesthood leaves an indelible mark like the sacraments of Baptism and Anointing with Holy Myron. Therefore neither it can be repeated nor it can be given temporarily. The Holy Spirit identifies the one who receives the Holy Order with Christ. It enables the person to exercise the priestly, prophetic and kingly functions as the representative of Jesus Christ. Holy Priesthood is a sacrament which provides an indelible mark in the heart of its recipient. It just means if a person is once ordained a priest, he is a priest forever.





Jeevan Darshan  
2018

## 2. The Grace of the Holy Spirit

The grace of the Holy Spirit is given in each sacrament. In the Holy Qurbano, the gifts of the Holy Spirit is given to transform the bread and wine into the body and blood of Jesus Christ and to lead its recipients to the eternal gift. In the Holy Order, the Holy Spirit helps one to identify himself with Jesus and gives the grace to live as another Christ. The Holy Spirit enables him to perform the triple functions of the priest. He receives the gift to identify himself with Jesus Christ, who himself is the priest and sacrifice.

### The Duties of a Priest

Priesthood is a ministry. A priest is a man who serves the people of God. Priests continue the ministry of Jesus Christ who came into this world in order to serve; but not to be served and to be a ransom for many (Mk 10:45, 9:33-35, Lk 22:26). Priesthood has three functions: kingly, prophetic and priestly. To lead, to teach and to sanctify are the duties in these functions.

#### 1. Kingly function

To lead the people of God is the essence of Priesthood. Priests are the shepherds, leading the sheep to good pastures as the representatives of the good shepherd, Jesus Christ. The duty of a shepherd is to lead, not to rule. Messiah is the great shepherd of the sheepfold (Heb 13: 20). "The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (Jn 10:11). "When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice" (Jn 10: 4). He leads them towards the Father. A priest stands ahead of the people in their pilgrimage towards heaven. To lead the people of God before the heavenly father is the duty of the shepherd in every priest.

## 2. Prophetic Function

A prophet gives the Word of God to the people. Prophet is not merely a messenger; rather he lays down his life for the message. Therefore the prophetic function comes from the priestly function (1 King 19: 4-8, Jer 15:18, 20: 2-7, Mt 23:24). Jesus was a prophet (Mk 6: 4, Lk 4: 18, Acts 3:22). Jesus underwent the experiences (being rejected, being martyred) of a prophet. The paschal mystery is the prophetic death which is accepted and glorified by the heavenly Father. Likewise, when a priest stands for God, he will be rejected and killed.

## 3. Priestly Function

The Son of man came into this world to give his life as a ransom for many. In Jn 17:19, we see a great priest who prays for the people entrusted to him. This prayer follows the same structure of the prayer by the chief priest on the Day of Atonement in the Old Testament. The chief priest prays for himself, for other fellow priests and for the people. The duty of a priest is also to sanctify the people and pray for them. Priests have received the divine authority to distribute the body and blood of Jesus Christ to the people who have gathered in front of the altar in the name of Him. They also have got the authority to pray over the faithful for the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

### The Signs and Symbols in the Sacrament of Holy Order

Unlike the other sacraments, we should approach the symbols in the sacrament of Holy Priesthood differently. Because, though there is only one sacrament, there are different privileges. The major orders of Priesthood are the order of episcopo, order of priesthood and the order of diaconate. There are also different minor orders according to the custom of a particular Rite. Here we include the details which are common to all the rites. We will learn about the different orders in Malankara Catholic Church in the next lesson.



Jeevan Darshan

2018



Jeevan Darshan

2018

## Major Orders and Minor Orders

This categorization is based on the privileges and responsibilities received through the Sacrament of Holy Order. All Rites recognize the orders of Episcopos, Priests and Deacons as major orders. Bishops are the successors of the Apostles. Priests are their co-workers. Deacons are the deputies of the Bishops and Priests. All the three of them carry out the ministries closely re-

lated to the Holy Altar. Therefore, the Order they receive is called Holy Orders. Minor Orders are not generally called Holy Orders. In the Oriental Churches, there are more than one minor order. They are equivalent to the Reading ministry and Altar ministry in the Latin Church.

### Different Orders

There are different orders in the Church. They are conferred in different ways in different Rites. In the Latin Rite, those who are appointed for the Holy Reading Ministry and the Altar Ministry are called ministers. In the Syro-Malabar Rite and in the Syro-Malankara Rite, apart from the three major orders, there are other minor orders also.

In the Syro-Malabar Rite, there are two minor orders. Those who are appointed for the reading of the Holy Scripture are given the order of *Karoya* and those who are appointed for assisting the Holy Service at the altar are given the order of *Heupadyakna*. In the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church, in addition to the *Korooyo* and *Heupadyakno* orders, there is one more order for those appointed for the singing of the psalms by name *Samarono*.

The orders given to Bishops, Priests and Deacons are called major orders, because they have obligation to receive higher responsibilities. The blessing they receive is considered as a sacrament. That is why it is called Holy Order. Holy Orders are given through the laying on of hands by the bishops. In some Rites, the laying on of hands by the bishops is not necessary for the minor orders.



It is the tradition that three bishops are necessary for the laying on of hands in the consecration of Bishops. This tradition highlights the communion of the Apostles. In the Latin Rite, there is a custom of keeping the hands and praying over the newly ordained priest by the fellow priests who are present for the Ordination ceremony. This shows the communion of the clergy.



Jeevan Darshan

2018

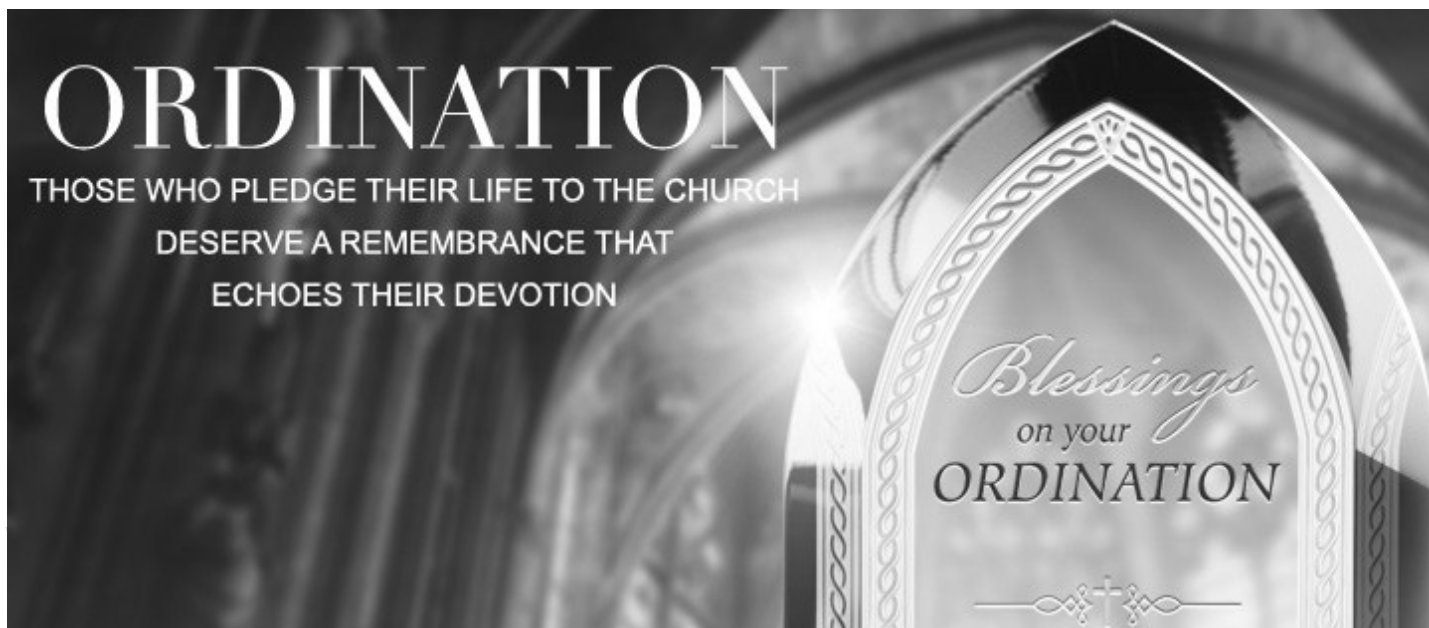


*Remember and pray for the priest who gave you the First Holy Communion*

Let us learn by heart

“For this reason, I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands” (2 Tim 1:6)

“For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens” (Heb 7:26)





Jeevan Darshan

2018

The word used to indicate priest in Greek was *presbyteros*. It was Tertullian who gave the hierarchical names such as Episcopos, Presbytors, Deacons in the sacrament of Holy Order.

The root meaning of the word 'priest' is 'one who is placed before'. It is in this sense; 'purohithan' is used in Malayalam. 'Vaidikan' is used in the sense of 'the one who knows the vedas (scripture)'. Priest interprets the Holy Scripture and stands before the people.

*Kashisho* is the syriac word used for priests. *Kashisho* means elder.



## Lesson 3

### The Sacrament of Holy Orders in the Malankara Syrian Catholic Church



Jeevan Darshan

2018

The Sacrament of Holy Orders begins after the *kukkilion* of the saints during the Holy Qurbano. The Deacons for the Holy Orders are present there in their vestments kneeling at the entrance of the *Madbaha*. After the initial prayers, the bishop explains the eligibility of a priestly candidate and reminds them their responsibilities. The Sacrament of Holy Orders is administered through the "Laying on of hands" as commanded by Jesus Christ, by the Bishop who is gifted with the fullness of priesthood. The liturgy of the Sacrament of Orders is celebrated along the Divine Liturgy or the celebration of the Holy Qurbano. It begins after the *kukkilion* of the saints during the Holy Qurbano. The Deacon, the candidate for the Holy Order of *Kasiso*, with the deacon's vestments, kneels down at the entrance of the *Madbaha*. The bishop begins the liturgy with the *Omologion*, the advice given by the bishop that explains the eligibility required of a candidate and reminds him his responsibilities. They are as follows:



1. To understand the true faith and to live in accordance with it.
2. To obey the authorities of the church.
3. To grow in holiness and humility.
4. To restrain one from things which doesn't fit the order of priesthood.
5. To be faithful in prayer, fasting and penance.
6. To grow closer to God each day through the attainment of virtues.



Jeevan Darshan

2018

**A. A Priest, one who carries the cross:** After the exhortation by the bishop the candidate proclaims his faith and promises complete obedience in writing. Symbolizing one's complete sacrifice and total devotion to Jesus, the bishop cuts the hair of the candidate in the form of the cross.

**B. A Priest, the instrument of the Holy Spirit:** Symbolizing that the Holy Spirit is the one who invites a person for the Holy orders, the candidate is invited into the *Madbaha* by the proclamation, "The Holy Spirit invites you to be a priest in the Holy Church."

**C. A Priest, one called to be a Saint:** The sacrament of Holy Orders begins with Psalm 51 for the atonement of the candidate's sins. Through the confession of sins, the candidate is made a part of the group of saints. The congregation prays so that the grace of God ornaments the candidate with the glorious robes of priesthood and strengthens him with the power of the Holy Spirit.

**D. A Priest, one who forgives and pardons:** The hymns in the sacrament of Holy Orders depict so, "Handing over the keys of both the worlds, he proclaims to Simeon, son of Jonah. Take care of my works carefully. I have handed over my whole flock to you. You should guide them. The just throne of high will reward you". Followed by this is the depiction of the authority which they would receive, "The savior has given you the power to pardon and forgive other's sins. The keys of high are with you. God has given you the fortune to enter the holy sanctuary."

**E. A Priest, Prophet and Evangelist:** A passage from the letter to Timothy is read. The candidates are advised to be firm in the doctrines and to give the doctrines. Symbolizing that evangelization is the primary duty of a Priest the gospel is read keeping it on the deacon's shoulders. It is a reminder that the priest is the carrier of the Gospel.





Jeevan Darshan

2018

**F. Holy Spirit is the life of a priest:** Symbolizing the descent of the Holy Spirit, the bishop blows on the candidate's head in the form of a cross thrice. The power that guides the priest is the Holy Spirit. It is prayed that the spirit that descended on Moses on Mount Sinai and on the apostles, descend on this candidate too.

**G. A Priest, a Servant:** In the prayer after the secret prayer, we pray, "May this servant make your name holy and serve you in the holy altar." We also pray so that the Almighty helps him to serve faithfully in the sanctuary. Priesthood is a service for God and for fellow beings.

**H. The Holy Spirit gives birth to a priest : The Laying on of Hands:** The candidate is covered by the robes of the celebrant and the celebrant receives power from the holy sacraments and ordains the candidate by his right hand. The celebrant makes the silent prayer so that the candidate receives necessary graces required for the service of priesthood. This is the most sacred part of the ordination.

**I. A Priest, the one kept apart for Christ:** The celebrant makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the candidate. This ritual makes it clear that the newly ordained priest is completely devoted to Jesus and has offered his life completely for the services of Christ. Symbolizing this devotion, the candidate wears the sacred vestments.





Jeevan Darshan  
2018

There are **7 orders** in priesthood according to the Malankara Syrian Catholic Church.

They are classified as Minor Orders and Major Orders. The first four are Minor Orders and orders of *M'samsono*, *Kasiso* and *Episcopo* are Major Orders.

1. **Maudyono** (The one who takes vows): the one who devotes himself for the service of the church. He accepts the Episcopate and takes up the duty to serve the church.
2. **M'samrono** (The singer) : He reads the psalms and leads the choir for the sacred services. He wears the alb.
3. **Koruyo** (the Reader) : He reads the Scriptures during the Holy Qurbano and the liturgy of the hours. He wears the white alb and the stole in the form of a cross.
4. **Hauptdiakono** (Door Keeper): He is the door keeper and helps the deacon in various services. He wears a white alb and the stole in triangular form.
5. **M'samsono** (Deacon) : He is the official server. He incenses and does the preparatory service of the Holy Qurbano. He has to help the priest. He wears the white alb and puts the stole over his left shoulder.
6. **Kasiso** (Priest) : He is the one who is appointed by the church to officiate the sacraments and to evangelize.
7. **Episcopo**(Chief priest) : This is the fullness of priesthood. He is appointed to lead, guide and sanctify the people of God.





## Priestly Vestments

### Kasiso

In the Eastern Liturgy, the vestments are arranged according to the model of the special dress used during the celebrations in the ancient Roman Empire (Is not our vestments similar to the vestments of the OT, of Aaron??? It is said below). The liturgical vestments which we use now are common in the Church from the fourth century. The liturgical vestments are designed according to the vestments worn by the Old Testament Priests with the commandment of God (Exodus 28:2-43) and the exhortation of St Paul to wear the dress of spiritual armor (Eph. 6:10-17). Each vestment is worn by blessing with the sign of the cross and saying the prescribed prayers.



Jeevan Darshan

2018

## The Symbolic Meaning of the Liturgical Vestments

1. **Black Robe** : This indicates the sacrifice and the detachment from the worldly thoughts. This is the official dress of a Priest.
2. **Msone (Ceremonial Shoes)** : The priest also puts on msone, ceremonial shoes which are worn during the celebration of the Holy Qurbano. Since animal products are prohibited in the sanctuary, the shoes are not made of leather. Upon wearing the left shoe, the priest recites, "May my feet, O Lord God, be shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace so that I may tread underfoot serpents and scorpions and all the power of the enemy, forever". Upon wearing the right shoe, he recites, "Cast down under my foot, Lord God, all false pride that is exalted against Thy knowledge, and grant that by Thy help I may bring the lusts of the flesh into subjection, forever".



Jeevan Darshan

2018

**3. *Kutino* (Alb):** He then puts on the *kutino*, 'alb', a white surplice whose color is an indication of the priest's purity. The priest signs the cross over it three times saying, "Clothe me, O Lord, with the robe of incorruption through the strength of Thy Holy Spirit, and make me worthy to keep the true faith and walk in the paths of purity and righteousness all the days of my life". White dress is the symbol of sanctity received in Holy Baptism. It

is said in the Book of Revelation, "The one who is victorious will be dressed in white" (Rev. 3:5). It is reminded of receiving Baptism. Only those who wear the white garments will get share in the banquet of the king (Mt. 22:11-13).

**4. *Haimnikho* (Stole):** Then he puts on the *hamnikho*, the stole which symbolizes the priest being armed with the fear of the Lord. He signs the cross over it twice, reciting Psalm 18:39, 40: "Gird me with strength unto the battle and subdue under me them that rise up against me, defeat my enemies and silence those who hate me".

**5. *Zenoro* (Girdle) :**Then he puts on the *zenoro*, 'girdle' which speaks of the priest's control over all bodily desires. He signs the cross over it once reciting Psalm 45:3, "Gird thy sword upon thy thigh, O thou most mighty with thy splendor and glory. Thy glory triumphs".

**6. *Zende* (Sleeves):** He then arms himself with the *zende*, 'sleeves' which symbolize the priest's readiness to keep God's Law and do works of righteousness. He signs the cross twice over the left sleeve and recites Psalm 18:34 while wearing it: "He trains my hands to war; and he strengthens my arms like a bow of brass. He then signs the cross once over the right sleeve and recites Psalm 18:35 while wearing it: Let Thy right hand help me up, and let Thy loving discipline raise me".





Jeevan Darshan

2018

**7. Phayno (Kappa)** : The priest then puts on the phayno, a cope which symbolizes Aaron's robe of many colors and the Savior's seamless robe. He signs the cross over it thrice reciting Psalm 132:9-10: Let Thy priests be clothed with righteousness and Thy righteous with glory. For Thy servant David's sake, turn not away the face of thine anointed. Then he puts it on reciting Psalm 132:9: Clothe Thy priests with salvation and Thy saints with glory. The Kappa signifies the robe that the bleeding woman touched (Mt. 9:20), the outer garment of Elijah (II Kings 2:13) and the red robe Jesus worn before crucifixion (Jn. 19:5).

### **Episcopo**

Episcopo has more vestments than the Priests as explained below:

**1. Eskimo (Masnapasa)** :The Episcopo puts on the eskimo, a hood worn by monks at all times.

[Note: In Malankara, this vestment is incorrectly referred to as 'masanapsa', a corruption of masnaphto, described below.]

**2. Masnaphto (Seelamudi)** :If the celebrant is a prelate, he puts on the masnaphto 'turban', a head-cover which symbolizes the cloth with which the Lord's head was bound for His burial. He makes the sign of the cross twice on it and wears it reciting Psalm 4:6-7: "Who can show me He who is good? May the light of Thy countenance shine upon us, O Lord, Thou hast given gladness to my heart".



Jeevan Darshan

2018

**3. Batrashil (Pathraseen) :** If the celebrant is a Bishop, he puts on the batrashil 'Pallium' which is similar to the *Hamnikho* but extends both front and back. It reminds the prelate of the Cross which the Savior carried. He crosses it once reciting Psalm 27:5, "In the day of trouble, he protects me in the shadow of his tabernacle. He exalts me upon a rock; and now he shall lift up my head above mine enemies".

According to the tradition of Malankara Syrian Catholic Church, an Episcopo is given the following external symbols at the time of ordination to Episcopate.

#### **Black Robe with Red Lining**

- 1. Black Headgear (*Mudithoppi*) :** It signifies the reception of authority as the successor of Apostles and the eternal crown expected to be received in heaven.
- 2. Crosier (*Amshavadi*) :** The Crosier symbolizes the bishop's authority and reminds us of the shepherd's staff.
- 3. Hand Cross (*Sleebe*) :** The Hand Cross has a mqablonitho 'veil' hung from it. Sleebe is used to give blessings.
- 4. Cross Chain:** It is the symbol of salvation. A Bishop using this shows his distinctive responsibility of leading the people of god to eternal salvation.
- 5. Ring :** The ring which a Bishop wears is the symbol of his undivided relationship with the Eparchy.

There are no Orders above the Episcopate. Eventhough there are differences in the ranks, responsibility, rights, authority and external symbols, the Metropolitan, Cardinal, Catholicos, Patriarch, Pope have the same Holy Order of Episcopate.

Catholicos and Patriarch wear three Enkolpions (Medals) on the chest signifying their supreme authority.